

ESTABLISHED JUNE 19, 1871.

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GOMEZ STILL HOPES

Thinks the Independence of Cuba One of Future's Certainties.

SAYS PEACE WILL COME BEFORE A YEAR

Insurgent Forces Now as Strong as the Spanish Detachment.

MORE VALIANT IN A RIGHTFUL CAUSE

Cuban Leader Declares that He Will Not Accept Autonomy.

DECREE PROMULGATED TOO LATE TO SAVE

Commander-in-Chief of the Insurgent Armies Discusses in Detail the Situation in Cuba.

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HAVANA (via Key West, Fla.), Jan. 1.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—General Gomez gave me on December 23 his last, possibly his last, statement of the Cuban cause. He was at his headquarters at Majagua, a beautiful stock farm near Arroyo Arena. Seated in his hammock, as is his custom, he talked Spanish to me, and I wrote notes in English. Chief of Staff Bosa, sitting next to my correspondent, retranslated the notes to General Gomez and he signed them. The first question naturally was regarding autonomy.

"It is too late," declared the Cuban commander in chief. "Frankly, I realize that although there are strings to some important provisions of the decree, autonomy is a tremendous stride in advance by Spain, and close to genuine rule of, for and by the people. Three years ago it would have been avoided war. It might have been accepted two years back, when we reached the rates of Havana, but not now; no, not even if Spain should give up to us everything but its flag."

"But Secretary Dupuy de Lome," said that Spain would even permit a five-pointed star in the Spanish flag for New Cuba," I remarked.

General Gomez thought a moment, then went on: "If Spain will go that far, then we can wait its willingness to change its colors as well. We are still disposed to pay many millions for the privilege of stopping bloodshed, but there must be no half way measures. We tried them at the end of the last war."

"I don't regard the concession of autonomy solely as a proof of Spanish weakness. Spain still counts resources to carry on the war a long time. Autonomy always was more or less the idea of the liberal party. The death of Canovas and the failure of Weyler simply gave the liberals more power. They made the error of thinking that the Cubans were wavering. Now they should be undeceived. It is a long time since autonomy was promised. All the Cuban soldiers fully understand it. The Havana newspapers come here freely."

EFFORTS TO BRIBE OFFICERS.

"Attempts have been made to bribe almost every Cuban leader. Result, not one important surrender; no increase in propaganda; even according to the Spanish official figures, and I think all who thought of surrendering have surrendered."

"Spain cannot do more than proclaim. It cannot have elections. There will be no one to vote. It will be a farce. With the armed volunteers willing to conserve in a body, and Spain would be elected. What kind of autonomy would they administer? Really there is no autonomy party. Blanco had to rattle the United States and Europe to find enough men of any name to occupy governmental posts. They had not courage enough to come out here and fight, nor to remain on the island even to ask. They are too stiff for rulers in troublesome times. A handful of real autocrats are the most pitiable men alive. They are like little boys who have long and longingly yearned for an unreachably apple. Bad boys with bean-shooters knock the apple down, but, behold, the apple is a red sea apple, and turns to dust in the good boys' mouths."

"General Gomez," I interrupted, "you are severely criticized in the United States for hanging people who come to your forces to ask autonomy."

"The fiery old general's eyes blazed. 'That is wrong and unjust,' he responded. 'First, such men are hanged, not by personal fiat, but under a recent law passed by our government. Second, no one has been hanged who came merely to talk autonomy—only those who came to buy it. It is not discussion of the question we wish to avoid, but bribery. Were this not so your own neck would be in great danger.' General Gomez smiled. 'And if you had mentioned money, or custom house duties, or advanced any autocratic argument of that species, you would have decorated a guinea ten minutes later. It would be our worst possible policy to attempt to choke off discussion. In fact, every proclamation of the autocrat party is handed to our men and the newspapers come here full of it.'

HANG ALL SPANISH EMBASSIES.

"Our law for hanging Spanish embassies necessarily included all of them, for almost all come with money. Your great General Washington hanged Major Andre for just this reason. The only difference is that Andre had been in corrupting Clinton, while not one Spanish brother has yet succeeded in buying a Cuban chief. The two Cervera brothers, who now are Spanish custom officers, were not leaders, but loafers."

"I have great respect for Blanco—not so many unarmed people are killed as were before. I congratulate him upon his proclamations, and sympathize with him that they are so slowly obeyed. He really has not enough men to carry on the war." General Gomez smiled as he continued: "In fact his army corps is made up of just the same skeleton organizations ours always has been. Your newspapers have had fun of our five army corps of a few thousand men each, and our brigade of 300. Today they are just as big as the Spaniards', and if Blanco really puts guards on the sugar estates, he will have but a handful of men to use in the field."

"I have again prohibited gridding. Where there is work there is peace, and we do not wish peace without independence. However, I am sure that next season will see both. This war cannot last more than a year. This is the first time I have ever put a limit to it. I agree with General Blanco that the war is really between Spain and the United

States, at least in this respect: When Spain finds that its last stop, perfected and further broadened autonomy, fails, both in Cuba and the United States; when the rebels don't come from the Manigua, but expeditions do come from Florida. It must for shame demand that the United States stop the rifles and cartridges that enable us to so easily conduct our system of war. I do not think the United States government is stronger than the majority of its people. They are free. They sympathize with independence. I do not think any Spanish reforms will cause them to withdraw sympathy and aid. I expect as many expeditions in the future as heretofore. In a few weeks Spain will either evacuate Cuba or fight the United States. It probably will do the first and talk of the other."

DOES NOT MEAN ANNEXTION.

"But, general," I asked, "would that not mean annexation?"

"No," General Gomez answered, "I think the United States only wants Cuba commercially. It will have that with Cuban independence and not have the complex problem of managing an island of different languages, ideas, institutions and social customs. Frankly, if Cuba were annexed tomorrow I don't think there is an American statesman who would know what to do with it."

The naval position of the United States also is as much strengthened by Cuba's independence as it would be by annexation. The last threatening point held by a European power would be vacated. If Spain continues to reject our proposition to buy the island, it has no other course but to lose it ostensibly to the superior power of the United States in a blaze of patriotic glory. That will cause up the discontent of the Spanish people against their present form of government in war talk against the United States. It is the only way Sagasta can save himself. Canovas had done so rather than recall Weyler. By recalling Weyler he really would have abandoned the only way to conquer Cuba—extermination of the Cubans. In short, Spain has been forced by the United States to give up the only way of winning the war—Weylerism."

"No, the only question is as to how it will lose the island, by common sense and sell to the Cubans, or rather by preparations for war with the United States. I know Spain never had common sense. I believe its statesmen, who have never been squeamish about robbing their country peculiarly, will make the war so that, safe still in their positions, they can continue to do so. I do not refer to Sagasta, but to his persuaders. The Spanish prime minister is honest and poor."

WEYLER'S METHODS A BENEFIT.

"Were it not for humanity, I should say Weyler's infamous plans, or rather his failure to feed the country people once he had them in fortified towns, was a glorious thing. It has certainly helped the revolution. Indeed, it has guaranteed its success, for no autonomy falls flat on the ears of the revolutionists, each of whom, no matter how low in rank, has had a father or mother or a father or helpless children, or at least some close relative, cruelly starved to death under the protection of the Spanish flag. Weyler's barbarism has created a bitter hatred that, no reform, no political concession, can heal."

"Materially, the starvation of the farmers in the towns left plenty to eat for the armed men in the fields, and Weyler destroyed his only means of locating our forces, while he did not injure our spy system. There were always some farmers willing to sell information to Spain. They were taken to town with the others, while the large proportion remaining in the Manigua, to protect their own lives from Weylerism, had to treble their former vigilance over the troops' movements. We got their information. The taking of wives, sweethearts and children out of the fields also greatly improved our forces. The Cubans are very domestic. They fight better alone."

"Blanco's efforts are most commendable, but pitifully inefficient. He has neither money enough nor subordinates to spend it honestly. He cannot possibly save even the three-quarters he tells me he expects to save, for half of the remaining reconcentrados are too far gone. They need careful nursing. The only food Blanco has to give them would kill them."

SYLVESTER SCOVEL.

APPROVES THE CUBAN CABINET.

Spanish Ministers Object to Publication of Weyler's Protest.

MADRID, Jan. 1.—(At a meeting of the cabinet last evening Senor Sagasta, the premier, read a telegram from Senor Blanco, the Cuban general, giving the names of the Cuban cabinet as announced yesterday, and the cabinet approved of the nominations. The premier also read a telegram from Senor General Blanco, in which the latter demanded authorization to repeal the order prohibiting the exportation of manufactured tobacco.

General Corro, the minister of war, made a report on the memorial which Senor Weyler presented to the queen regarding the subject of President McKinley's recognition of congress. General Weyler in this memorial denied having sent copies of his protest to the newspapers and the minister for war also received a royal edict directing the supreme court martial to prosecute those who communicated the text of the protest to the press.

The director of the National press, as a personal address to the general's staff, where he took a rough draft of the protest, copied his notes and supplies them to the press. He said that General Weyler is innocent of distributing the matter to the newspaper. The ministry, however, is convinced that he is guilty of having committed several misdemeanors and is inclined to act in the most rigorous manner.

Senor Moret, the minister for the colonies, believes that the government will be able to raise 100,000,000 pesetas by the sale of Cuban mortgage securities, and Senor Peguero, the minister of finance, hopes to raise another 100,000,000 pesetas by a fresh issue of Spanish treasury bonds, which will be guaranteed by the Spanish customs. As the Cuban expense amounts to 40,000,000 pesetas monthly, these sums will provide the funds needed until the Cortes reconvenes.

General Weyler this afternoon called at the palace in order to personally apologize to the queen regent and exculpate himself.

ALL SWEAR ALLEGIANCE TO SPAIN.

Cuban Cabinet Officials Take the Required Oath.

HAVANA, Jan. 1.—Many people assembled at the palace today to witness the swearing in of Senor Rafael Montero, marquis of Montero, Senor Francisco Zayas and Senor Laureano Rodriguez as secretaries of the provisional government. Marshal Blanco, the captain general, was escorted by a number of high Spanish officials.

The consular corps, army and navy officers

UNSOLVED MYSTERY

Situation in Asia Proves to Be Veritable Chinese Puzzle.

NOBODY ABLE TO OFFER A SOLUTION

All Manner of Conflicting Stories Are Going the Rounds.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT KEEPS VERY MUM

Russia, France and England May Possibly Get Together.

TALK OF A TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT

In that Case Germany is to Be Harassed on Account of the Bombastic Utterances of the Kaiser.

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LONDON, Jan. 1.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—The Asiatic mystery remains as profound as ever. All manner of conflicting stories concerning the tithings of Russia, Germany, France and England are published in the continental and British press, but they afford no clear indication of ultimate developments of an admittedly complex situation.

The intentions of the British government remain absolutely concealed. The latest and most credible report is that important negotiations are proceeding between Russia, France and England to settle the question by an international deal excluding Germany. It is now declared that these unexpected negotiations were provoked by the Kaiser's recent Kiel outburst and that his decline intervention has spoiled the well laid plans of the other powers interested.

Much curiosity exists as to what Queen Victoria said to Prince Henry of Prussia when he paid her a visit the other day before departing for the far east. According to a story which has gone the rounds of all circles in Portsmouth since Prince Henry passed through on his return from Osborne the queen greeted him thus: "My dear grandson, don't kill all the poor Chinese."

The prince, according to the story, thoroughly entered into the spirit of the thing and repeated his grandmother's playful remonstrance with much satisfaction.

WILD GUESSES AT WAR NEWS.

Bulk of Reports on Chinese Situation Simply Manufactured.

(Copyright, 1898, by the Associated Press.)

LONDON, Jan. 1.—The ingenuity displayed in manufacturing news from the far east is remarkable. Five-sixths of the statements can be safely labeled guesses. The British and Russian foreign offices are as dumb as oysters, and the German stream of communications in the semi-official press shows they do not know which foot they are standing on. France is apparently in the dark, while the mikado has dissolved the Japanese Diet in order that opinions should not be expressed. In the circumstances it is not strange that accurate information is difficult to secure.

The known facts wholly corroborate the statements cable to the Associated Press on Saturday last that Great Britain is carefully watching the situation, biding its time and will certainly not fail to act promptly and vigorously at the proper moment. It is pointed out in that dispatch that in well informed circles the scare in the newspapers regarding the war in the east was at least premature, and that the members of the government were evidently sincere in disclaiming the least alarm.

This view of the case was practically reiterated by the Daily Graphic on Friday, which asserted that there was every reason to believe the Russians would adhere to their pledge to evacuate Port Arthur at the end of the winter, and that, therefore, there were no grounds for complaint on the part of Great Britain. The Daily Graphic further pointed out that the British government did not regard the occupation of Kiaochow by the Germans as calling for action, because British interests were not threatened. Both the foreign office and the admiralty, according to the Daily Graphic, were agreed on this point.

Evidently, apart from the question of the Chinese loan, the Korean question is more interesting for Great Britain at the present moment than the questions of Port Arthur and Kiaochow, principally because the Marquis of Salisbury sees in the attempt to oust J. MacLeavy Brown, the British superintendent of Korean customs, a more serious menace to our interests than the German occupation of the Chinese Imperial maritime customs, which has apparently been slipped in the bud. The cabinet's existence would be short if it permitted Russia to coerce the taung li yamen (Chinese foreign office) into dismissing the British head of the Chinese customs.

It is not known yet whether the British government will approve of the arrangement arrived at according to cable dispatch from Peking, by which Mr. MacLeavy Brown and M. Alexieff, the Russian agent in Korea, will work the Korean customs together. The British ministers appear to be somewhat distrustful, as the war ships of Great Britain, which are at present off Chemulpo, the port of Seoul, in order to give moral support to Mr. Brown, will remain there for the present.

At present there is keen interest in commercial circles over the outcome of the efforts of Russia to secure a Chinese loan on the onerous terms announced by the Peking correspondent of the Times, who said that the Chinese government refused to place the internal revenues under foreign control as security for the loan proposed by the Hong Kong and Shanghai bank, and asserted that unless the loan was procurable without this condition arrangements would be forthwith made for a Russian loan guaranteed 4 per cent. The security for this loan would be the land tax, which would remain under Chinese administration, and China in return would give Russia a monopoly of the railroads and mines north of the great wall, even a port as a terminus of the Transiberian railway, and would agree that a Russian should succeed Sir Robert Hart as director of the Chinese Imperial maritime customs.

The interest is increased by the equally strenuous endeavors of the British in China to prevent Russia from obtaining the loan and the rich concessions which seems to go with it. It is impossible the British government will see reason to recede from its previous refusal to guarantee China financial support, although offered territorial concessions, apparently showing that Great

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SHILLALAHS WAVING

Sturdy Sons of Old Ireland Are Spoiling for a Fight.

MEMORIES OF THE REBELLION OF 1793

Centenary of that Event Duly Celebrated in City of Dublin.

BIG TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION IN STREETS

Bands of Music Play Irish, American and French Airs.

BRITISH RED COATS BARRED FROM RANKS

Popular Protest and the Lord Mayor Withdraws His Invitation to the Military—More Trouble in Sight.

(Copyright, 1898, by Press Publishing Company.)

DUBLIN, Jan. 1.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—The centenary of the Irish rebellion of 1793 was ushered in here this morning by a great torchlight procession, which paraded the principal streets headed by bands of music playing Irish, American and French national airs.

Memories of the rebellion are having an unmistakable effect in weakening national feeling in Ireland. Daniel Fallon, the lord mayor of Dublin for 1898, had his inaugural procession today, and for the first time in the memory of the living the English military bands and escorts were dispensed with. The lord mayor had arranged for the attendance of the military as usual, but vigorous protests were made by the nationalists through the press against associating red coats with an Irish civil procession in a year which recalls such awful memories of a rebellion by English soldiery in Ireland. Thereupon Lord Robert, the commander-in-chief in Ireland, forthwith recalled his acceptance of the lord mayor's invitation to the inaugural banquet, and unionist members of the corporation drew up a protest against the insult offered to the queen's soldiers and intimated that they could not accept the hospitality of the Mansion house either. These events have excited a bitter feeling in England, a London dispatch reports, and but for foreign embarrassments the government undoubtedly would attempt a wholesale suppression of the rebellious celebrations planned for the current year throughout Ireland.

PERFECT STRANGER TO FEAR.

Late Henry Havelock-Allan, One of Britain's Bravest Soldiers.

(Copyright, 1898, by Press Publishing Company.)

LONDON, Jan. 1.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—The death of Sir Henry Havelock-Allan removes one of the most courageous and eccentric figures of the British army whom it has ever been my fortune to meet. A few years ago I made his acquaintance at one of the grand autumn maneuvers of the German army, where he caused considerable alarm to the English military attaché, to say nothing of the staff of the Kaiser. The English general rode a magnificent charger which he had brought with him from England and the animal followed him about the battlefield like a dog when his master preferred walking to riding. Wherever there was an attack there might be seen Sir Henry, flying amid batteries and companies, his long mackintosh sailing in the wind and his hunting crop raised like the baton of a field marshal.

When the emperor, rather than the English general, rode a magnificent charger which he had brought with him from England and the animal followed him about the battlefield like a dog when his master preferred walking to riding. Wherever there was an attack there might be seen Sir Henry, flying amid batteries and companies, his long mackintosh sailing in the wind and his hunting crop raised like the baton of a field marshal.

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POKE FUN AT KAISER

Germany's Emperor Held Up as an Object of Ridicule.